



FAMILIES FORWARD

ISSUE 15
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Children in Foster Care and Returning to School

As we all know, the transition from summer to fall and all the preparations that returning to school requires can be a lot on both the children and the parents. This fall, as we prepare to send our children back to school it is important as foster parents who have children in foster care placed with them, who may have not gone through the start of a new school year preparations with them previously, to be mindful of the various stressors that can come with this time of year.

For children who currently are or have been in foster care throughout their life, change, pressure, and the unknown can be incredibly scary and difficult for them. Therefore, when it comes to going back to school all of those feelings can be very apparent to our children. Some ideas or ways to help ease the transition from summer to fall, and back to school are building excitement around the idea and plan of going back to school. It is important for foster and adoptive parents to talk to their children about the fun and exciting things going back to school brings. Being able to put an emphasis and focus on the friends, sports, clubs, and various activities and exciting things that will come when school starts will be very beneficial in helping to provide a positive environment for our children. Additionally, getting your child involved with the process of going back to school can be a very helpful tip. This may consist of, having them pick out their own school supplies, backpack, etc. to ensure that the things they will have at school are things they picked out themselves and will genuinely enjoy having with them. This may also be something fun like, having your child help you make their lunches every day, which gives them something to look forward to and guarantees they will enjoy lunch time while at school.

It is important to highlight some of the tips discussed above, and to provide additional links to other resources for both our foster and adoptive parents as we enter into the last month of summer. Although, some of the ideas mentioned may seem "silly" or "small" they actually play a very big role in ensuring the feelings of comfort, safety, and stability are evident for your children who may have mixed emotions when it comes to the topic of going back to school and the uncertainty of friends, classroom settings, teachers, other changes, and etc. Here are a few resources that can be very helpful during this time: <http://foster-adoptive-kinship-family-services-nj.org/5-foster-parents-tips-to-prepare-for-back-to-school-for-foster-children/> <https://www.fosteringforwardmi.org/school.html> <https://www.focusonthefamily.com/pro-life/foster-care/what-back-to-school-means-for-children-in-foster-care/>.

An additional resource that is always available is all of us at Forever Families your foster care, licensing, or adoption specialist are all here to offer support, guidance, additional resources, and anything else that you may need. Please feel free to contact your direct workers via email or call our office at (734) 762-0909. Together we will ensure a fun, positive, and smooth transition into the school year for all of our children!!

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EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH

Rhiannon Pniewski

Rhiannon is an essential asset in our agency. She is the directory of both the foster care and licensing departments and oversees all operations within. Rhiannon's passion and dedication to the departments she directs as well as the work she does and puts in for the agency is a true reflection of who she is and the commitment she has to the child welfare system, the children and families involved, and our agency as a whole. We are very lucky to have Rhiannon!



EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH

Manessa Carr

Manessa has been chosen for employee of the month for her extended efforts to go above and beyond for the children and youth that she serves. Manessa is a great mentor and has been a great support to older youth on the caseload. She is a hardworking and very knowledgeable adoption specialist. We are thankful to have Manessa on our team!



FOREVER FAMILIES MET GALA:

Silver

Silver: Forever Families' Met Charity Gala

Celebrating 25 Years of Service for Fostering and Adoption

Silver Charity Gala is in celebration of the Forever Families' 25th Anniversary!
Enjoy a great night of music, food, and dance while learning about
a phenomenal organization.

Silver: Forever Families' 25th Anniversary Charity Gala at
Pelister Park Venue
19600 Ford Road
Dearborn, MI 48128

Please follow our event website
www.ffsilvergala.com

THIS EVENT IS BLACK TIE ONLY



What else are we up to?

- We currently have 91 foster children in care.
- In 2022, we have:
 - Reunified 2 children with their birth parents.
 - Finalized 13 State Ward adoptions.
 - Licensed 7 foster homes.
 - Completed 1 Guardianship.
 - Domestic Adoption has placed 9 children with families.

Don't forget about your training hours!

The monthly support group for foster parents is the 4th Saturday of the month from 9-11 am.

Remember you earn 2 training hours every time you attend a support group, and have an opportunity to receive a prize by attending support groups.

Our upcoming trainings, support group dates & topics:

8/27/2022: Internet Safety

9/24/2022: IEP/Education

10/22/2022: Resources

11/19/2022: Parent Visits & After-Care

Here is the zoom link to our monthly support group:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84986619737>

Meeting ID: 849 8661 9737

Hope to see you there!

Don't forget to check out our monthly blog post on our website!